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his own property is denied him, on the ground of the maxim, *sic utere tuo ut alienum non laedas*. But generally this maxim is held to be applicable only to such injuries as the law will redress. *Ellis v. Duncan*, 21 Barb. (N. Y.) 230. The question as to the effect of the motive prompting the diversion of underground waters has seldom been before the courts. Some authorities consider the motive an important, though not a controlling element. *Walker v. Cronin*, 107 Mass. 555; *Haldeman v. Bruckhart*, 45 Pa. St. 514. Contra, *Bradford v. Pickles*, L. R. (1895) A. C. 587; *Phelps v. Nowlen*, 72 N. Y. 39. The tendency of the decisions is to consider the reasonableness of the use to which one's property is put. 12 *Yale Law Journal* 253.

PUBLIC POLICY—CONTRACT TO PROCURE LEGISLATIVE INVESTIGATION.—*VEAZEY v. ALLEN ET AL.*, 66 N. E. 103 (N. Y.).—A contracted with B to procure a congressional investigation into the affairs of the so-called Whiskey Trust for the purpose of depreciating the market value of its securities, upon B's agreement to divide with A any profits obtained by speculating in such securities. *Held*, void as against public policy.

Contracts for the use of personal influence to procure legislative action, where the one using such influence is himself pecuniarily interested in the result, are against public policy because of the tendency of such a person to further his own ends by means which are immoral, corrupt and destructive of the public welfare. *Mills v. Mills*, 40 N. Y. 546. Contracts for "lobby services" are void. *Trist v. Child*, 21 Wall. 441; *Chippewa Valley Ry. v. Chicago, etc., Ry.*, 75 Wis. 224. The fact that the proposed action is undoubtedly for the public benefit is immaterial. "The law looks to the general tendency of such agreements and closes the door to temptation by refusing them recognition. *Tool Co. v. Norris*, 2 Wall. 54. But the right to hire a proper party to draft a bill or claim and openly and fairly to explain it to the legislature, is unquestioned. *Chesebrough v. Conover*, 140 N. Y. 382.

PUBLICATION—LITERARY PROPERTY—COLLECTING INFORMATION—DISTRIBUTION.—*F. W. DODGE CO. v. CONSTRUCTION INFORMATION CO.*, 66 N. E. 204 (MASS.).—Where a company is engaged in collecting information as to public improvements as soon as possible after they are contemplated, and in distributing such information in printed, written, or oral form to its customers to enable them to take steps to obtain contracts, *held*, that the company has a property right in such information; and that such distribution is not such a publication as dedicates the information to the public and deprives the company of its right of control.

It has been held that where one has been at trouble and expense to obtain and compile information for a special use, he has a property right therein. *Exchange Tel. Co. v. Central News Co.*, [1897] 2 Ch. 48. But to what extent and in what manner the compiler may distribute the information without losing his right of control, has not been definitely decided. It has been held, on the one hand, that a property right in stock quotations and in news items is not lost by their distribution by telegraph among a limited number of persons. *Chicago v. Christie Co.*, 116 Fed. 944; *Nat. Tel. News Co. v. Western Union Tel. Co.*, 119 Fed. 297. On the other hand, the distribution in book form among subscribers of information in regard to